

# Washington Law Review

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Volume 26  
Number 4 *Annual Meeting of the Washington  
State Bar Association*

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11-1-1951

## Oral Report of Public Service Committee

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### Recommended Citation

Charles H. Paul, State Bar Journal, *Oral Report of Public Service Committee*, 26 Wash. L. Rev. & St. B.J. 265 (1951).

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next session of the Legislature and its resubmission in the form of a proposed recommendation.

(4) That this procedure will permit all state agencies who may be affected by this standard policy and procedure to be contacted sufficiently in advance of the 1953 Legislature in order to work out any difficulties that might arise with relation to specific administrative problems.

#### ORAL REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

BY JUDGE CHARLES H. PAUL

I am reporting for the Washington State Public Service Committee. That sounds like a fancy name. It is. We took it from some committees in other states which changed their names from Public Relationship Committee to "Public Service Committee," to put the emphasis on the fact that through what we did, we were attempting to benefit the public as well as the lawyers. I hope that that program you will hear will possibly do both.

Your committee met at two full meetings and attempted to analyze all media for convenient information on the law and lawyers to the public, and thereafter to determine what we could do as a committee along that line. There are certain ways available. One of them, of course, is through newspaper advertising. We made quite a study of that question, in fact, got very beautiful brochures almost like one of those SEC reports showing exactly what could be done, what coverage there would be and so on, and I think it was a very good presentation. The only trouble was, when we got to figuring what it would cost, we had already run out of money. It cost probably close to three thousand dollars, and there wasn't that much money available.

Then we considered the question of issuing printing and distributing pamphlets of a public relations character touching various subjects. That also was an expense and required a great deal of preliminary work and preparation. We just couldn't pick them up anywhere and send them out. We had to work on them and spend money doing so, and then there was some question as to what coverage we would actually get through that means.

We considered at first also the radio. Well, radio programs go over and they have to be done in a professional manner, and to be done in a professional manner that also costs a lot of money. So we were

apparently stumped for a really attractive program.

Fortunately, however, along the end of February of this year, some of the members of the Washington delegation to the American Bar who were also delegates to the Interstate Council, the Western Council, stopped by at Denver for a meeting of the Council, and there were played these records which you will hear here, if not now, tomorrow, one or two of them, if you want them. We heard these played. These records were not just lawyers talking. They were done by the Colorado Radio Council which was an aggregation of professional radio people supported by a public contribution of some kind who were doing this sort of thing not only for the lawyers, but for other groups; and after we heard one of these records played, we were so pleased with it that almost immediately everyone there said that we should buy these records if the Board of Governors approved.

Now, the records cost only \$250.00 for thirteen different programs. Now, that is chicken feed when you consider what it would cost for us to try to supervise any kind of a radio program even for one showing, so we think we are extremely fortunate.

We think the program is good both from the standpoint of the lawyers and the public. There is a little bit of drama in it, but the drama is not the only thing. The information is the point. It does not go into technical details, but it interests or is intended to interest, and I think it does interest the area because it hits home to the ordinary layman and would induce him to think on most of the matters covered, to look before he leaps; in other words, go and see his lawyer.

Now, that may result in a reduction of your business, of course, because a lot of it comes from the fact that people did not do that very thing, that is, see their lawyer first; but in that respect, I think what we can do with these records, properly handled, will be a distinct public service.

Now, what we intend to do is this: We intend to run these records first in Seattle—that is the easiest point—with the cooperation, in fact with the real management of the Seattle Association of Radio Broadcasters, and the Seattle Bar Association Public Service Committee. The records can be played an indefinite number of times, so I am advised, and then they will be sent to other cities, possibly not all of them. The first record may be played in Seattle while some of the other records may be played other places; there is not any exact order; and in Spokane and Tacoma. First the radio stations will

handle it, and the lawyers themselves who are sufficiently interested in this program would have to request it. They will eventually get these records.

The first one—I will let this record speak for itself, and there will be some introduction given by the program, very short, a sentence or two, and in some of these records that we have played and which have been listened to by your representatives on the various committees, there are occasional statements which may need some clarification of them. These are deleted to meet any state laws so as to be good in any state.

I think this is a fair example. This is "Wheels," a program which is a fair sample. We have others, and I will just read you the names of the others which I have listed, and then we will go on with this program if you are ready. They are "Wheels," "Unauthorized Practice," "In Your Office," "Criminal Law," "Contracts," "Legal Aid," "Checking-Banking"—they seem to have a reasonable connection—"Buying a House," "Inheritance Tax," "The Trial," "Soldier-Seller," "Divorce," and the last one does not convey very much information from the title; the program is "You Cannot Escape It." Well, you can think of a lot of things that you cannot escape, death and taxes, and that is mostly what it is about.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR REVISION  
OF INHERITANCE AND GIFT TAX LAW

BY RICHARD S. MUNTER

The present members of the Committee for Revision of Inheritance and Gift Tax Law were appointed November 21, 1950. As in the past, the committee worked closely with Mr. Victor R. Graves and other representatives of The Corporate Trustees' Association of Washington. Because other affairs prevented Mr. Harold E. Fraser and Mr. L. R. Bonneville (the Spokane and Tacoma members of the committee) from participating during February, the committee called upon and was ably assisted by Mr. F. D. Metzger of Tacoma and Mr. Laurance S. Carlson of Seattle.

In addition to inheritance and gift tax subjects, the Board of Governors requested the committee to consider the impact which the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank and Trust Co.*, 94 L. Ed. 865, might have on